Recommended for Mature Readers

# EIGHTBALL

By DANIEL CLOWES

number one

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Like a Velvet Glove Cast in Iron

also

Lloyd Llewellyn

DEVIL DOLL?

By D.G.C.

Young Dan Pussey

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

DANIEL CLOWES *presents*

# EightBall

An Orgy of Spite, Vengeance, Hopelessness, Despair and Sexual Perversion

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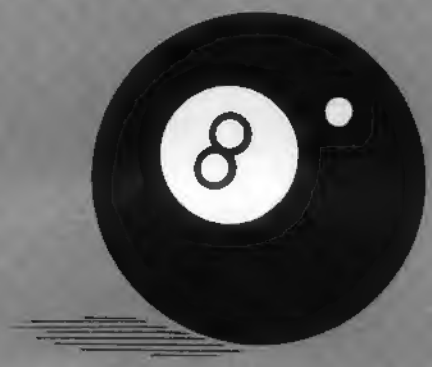



*Special Thanks, Important Facts and Embarrassing Admissions:*
A ten-gallon tip of the hat to my pal Fred Altergott for his help with "Young Dan Pussey," and "Devil Doll." He must be given full credit for such things as "Infinity Hombre," Dan Pussey's ring zipper and "Delta Tau Omega." Further thanks goes to gag-meister Charlie Schneider, the real-life Laffin' Spittin' Man and to the lovely Mrs. Clowes for her help with the first chapter of "Like a Velvet Etc." The back cover is the first of a series of back covers featuring material gleaned from David Greenberger's incredible mag, DUPLEX PLANET (Subscriptions: $12 from PO BOX 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY, 12866) which features surreal, non-sequitur interviews with nursing-home patients. Read it or die!



WRITE TO: EIGHTBALL c/o DAN'L CLOWES · 5545 WOODLAWN AVENUE
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# Like a Velvet Glove cast in Iron

Daniel Clowes

EXIT

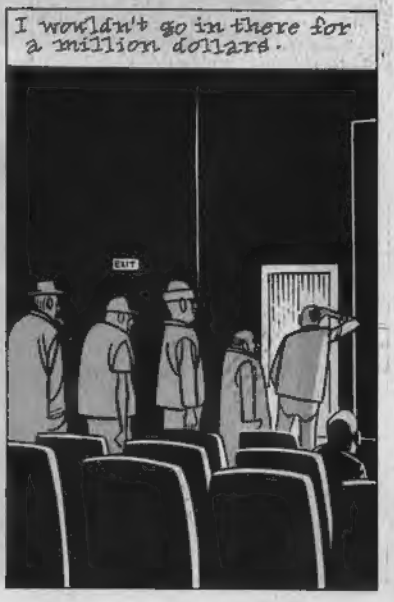
I haven't been in this place for a long time... smells like a urinal mint.

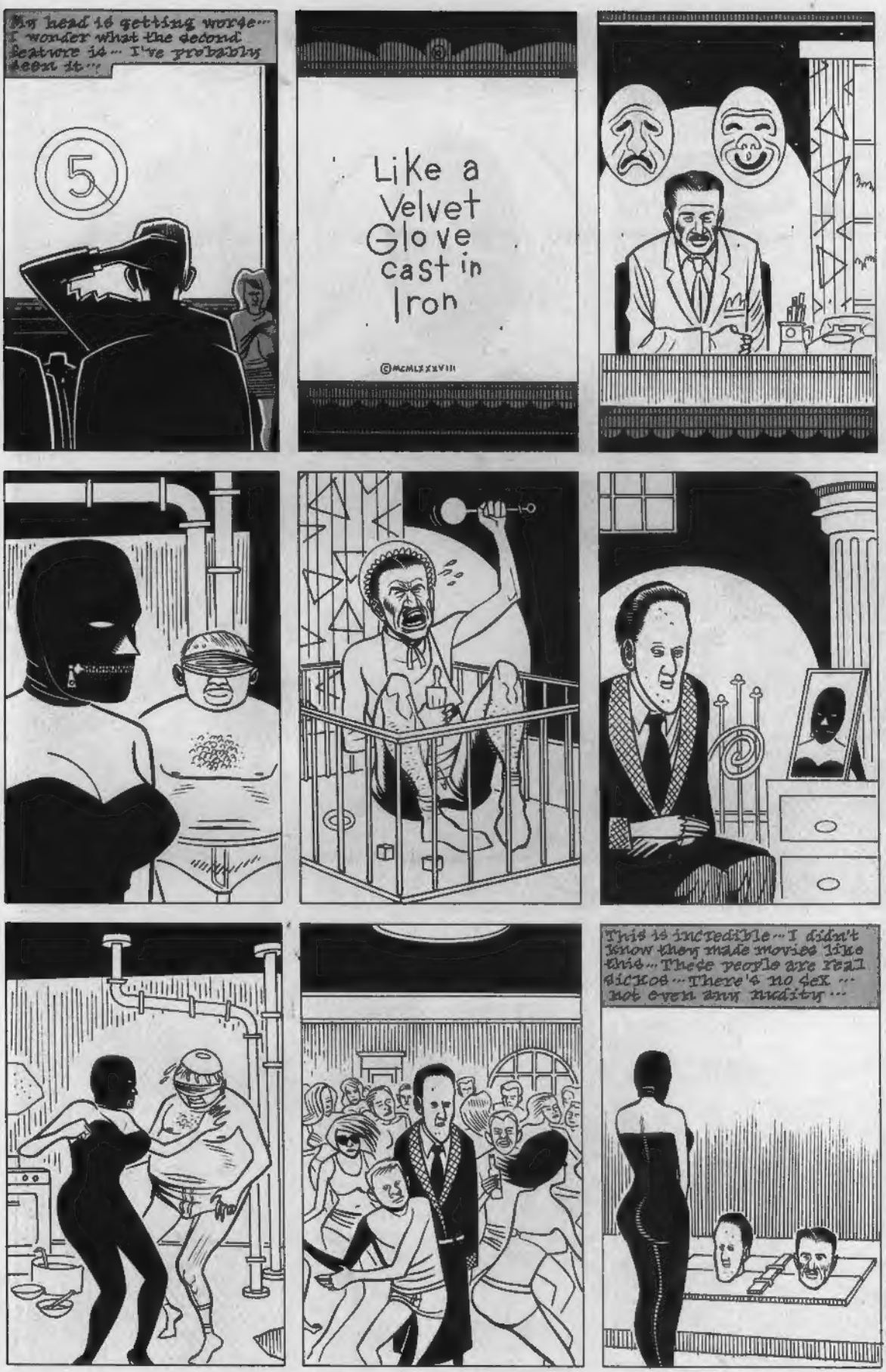
Oh Jesus... You gotta be kidding.
HI SLUGGER...

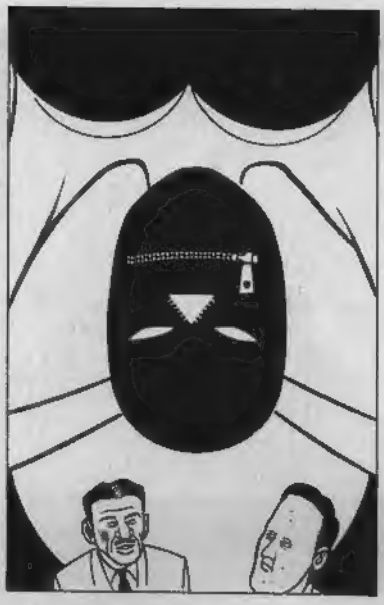
My shoes are stuck to the floor... this place is really disgusting.

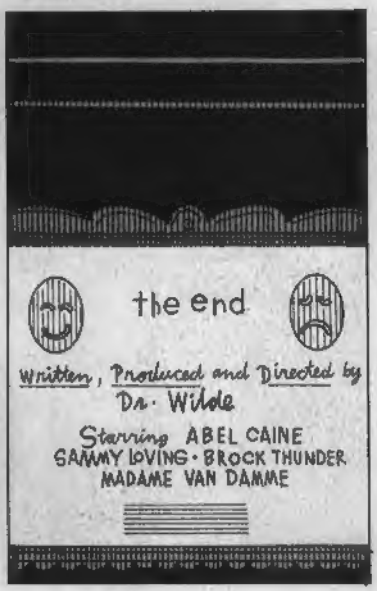
Look at these two would-be tough guys... I'd better try to look unapproachable or they might try to sell me drugs or something...
PSST! HEY!
HEY MAN! Y'GOTTA MATCH?

There's always a long line of guys waiting to get into the men's room... God knows what goes on in there...


I wouldn't go in there for a million dollars.
EXIT


My head is getting worse... I wonder what the second feature is... I've probably seen it...
5
Like a Velvet Glove cast in Iron
©MCMLXXXVIII
This is incredible... I didn't know they made movies like this... These people are real sicks... There's no sex... not even any nudity...




the end
Written, Produced and Directed by
Dr. Wilde
Starring ABEL CAINE
SAMMY LOVING · BROCK THUNDER
MADAME VAN DAMME

EXCUSE ME··· D-DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT MOVIE? DO YOU KNOW WHEN IT WAS MADE ···O-OR···

EXCUSE ME-- DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT LAST MOVIE?

TRY THE MEN'S ROOM, BUDDY! ... I'M NOT FOOLIN'!

DO YOU FOLLOW ME? DO YOU CATCH MY DRIFT? CAN YOU PICK UP WHAT I'M LAYIN' DOWN?

MAN

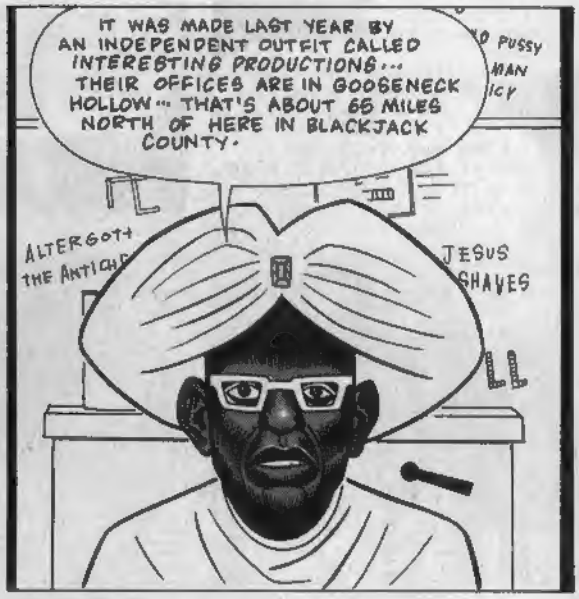
... BUT I'D SAY THAT IN YOUR CASE THE ITCHING IS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN DRY SKIN ... A GOOD MOISTURIZING LOTION SHOULD TAKE CARE OF IT ...

... AS TO YOUR SECOND QUESTION -- THE ONLY CRIME YOU WOULD BE GUILTY OF IN THAT INSTANCE IS MURDER IN SOME DEGREE. THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC LAWS IN THIS STATE GOVERNING THE UNLICENSED PRACTICE OF TAXIDERMY, TANNING OR PUPPETRY.
THANKS.

YOUR TURN, SLUGGER.
HI MOM
SUCK

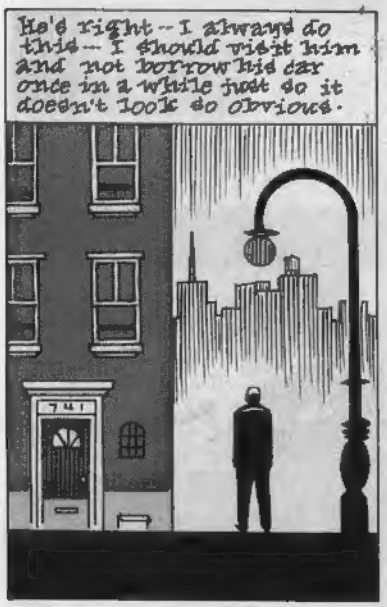
FUCK YO
YES, WHAT IS IT?
I WAS SAD AUSE I HAD NO PUSSY IL I ME+ A MAN WHO HAD NO DICK
ALTERGOTT IS +HE ANTICH
JESUS SHAVES
FOR GOOD

I-I WAS WONDERING IF YOU KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MOVIE THEY SHOWED TODAY-- "LIKE A VELVET GLOVE CAST IN IRON?"
EAT SHIT AND DIE


IT WAS MADE LAST YEAR BY AN INDEPENDENT OUTFIT CALLED INTERESTING PRODUCTIONS... THEIR OFFICES ARE IN GOOSENECK HOLLOW... THAT'S ABOUT 65 MILES NORTH OF HERE IN BLACKJACK COUNTY.
ALTERGOTT
JESUS SHAVES

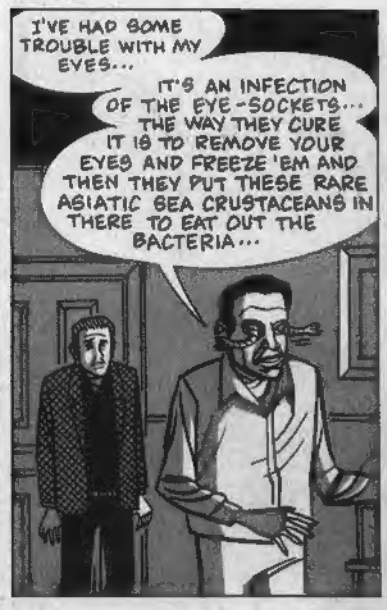
HI PAUL... THIS IS CLAY... LISTEN, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE... I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY YOUR PLACE...
WHO? CLAY? LOOK MAN, DON'T TRY TO CON ME-- I KNOW YOU JUST WANT TO BORROW MY CAR. WHO NEEDS A FRIEND LIKE YOU WHO ONLY CALLS WHEN HE WANTS SOMETHING!? FUCK YOU!

LOOK PAUL, I--
I-I I'M SORRY, MAN... I'VE BEEN HAVING SOME TROUBLE WITH MY EYES...


He's right-- I always do this-- I should visit him and not borrow his car once in a while just so it doesn't look so obvious.
741

WHO IS IT? WHO'S THERE?
IT'S ME...

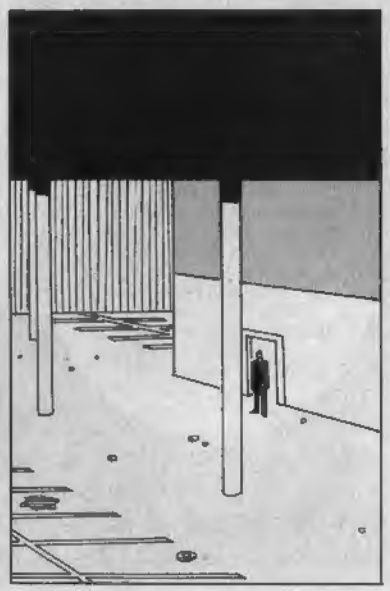
HELLO CLAY... YOU CAUGHT ME AT A BAD TIME, MAN.


I'VE HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH MY EYES...
IT'S AN INFECTION OF THE EYE-SOCKETS... THE WAY THEY CURE IT IS TO REMOVE YOUR EYES AND FREEZE 'EM AND THEN THEY PUT THESE RARE ASIATIC SEA CRUSTACEANS IN THERE TO EAT OUT THE BACTERIA...

I HAVE TO LEAVE 'EM IN TILL FRIDAY... IF THESE GUYS DO THEIR JOB I MIGHT HAVE MY EYES BACK IN AS SOON AS MONDAY...

LOOK, I KNOW YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO HEAR ME COMPLAIN... YOU PROBABLY HAVE THINGS TO DO...
HERE'S THE KEYS... IT'S PARKED IN THE WALKER ALLEY UNDERGROUND LOT...

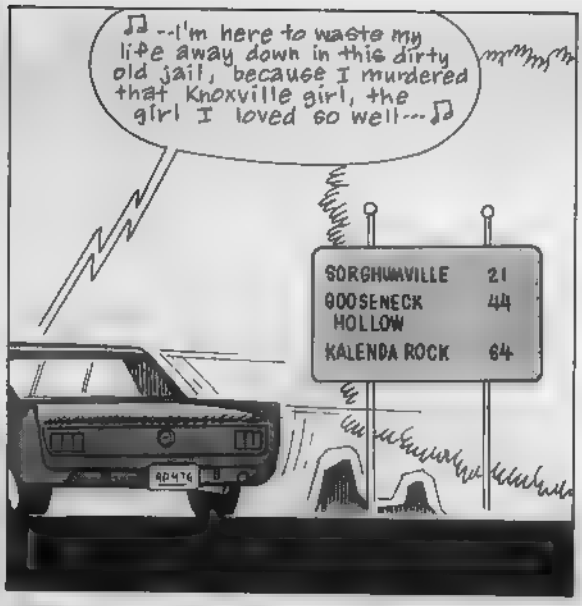
PARKING
IT'S NOT LIKE I DO MUCH DRIVING IN MY CONDITION ANYWAY, MAN...

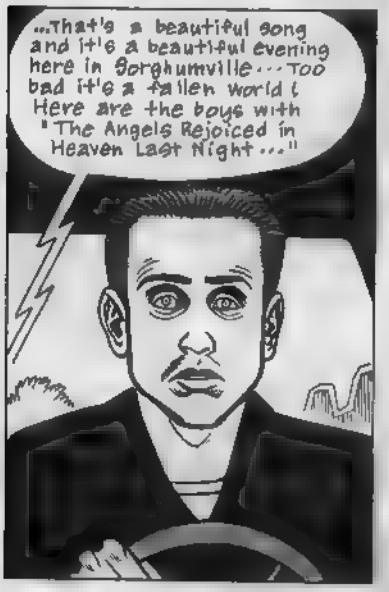


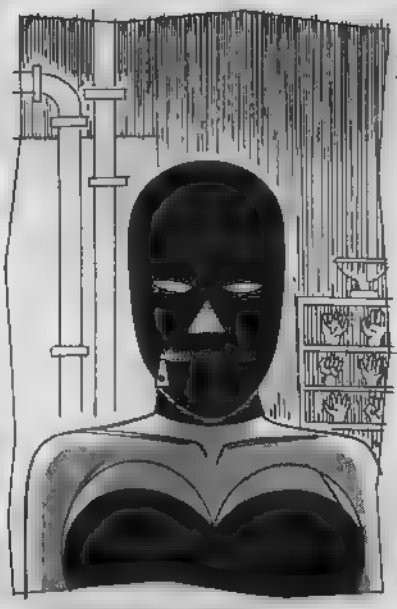
RATES

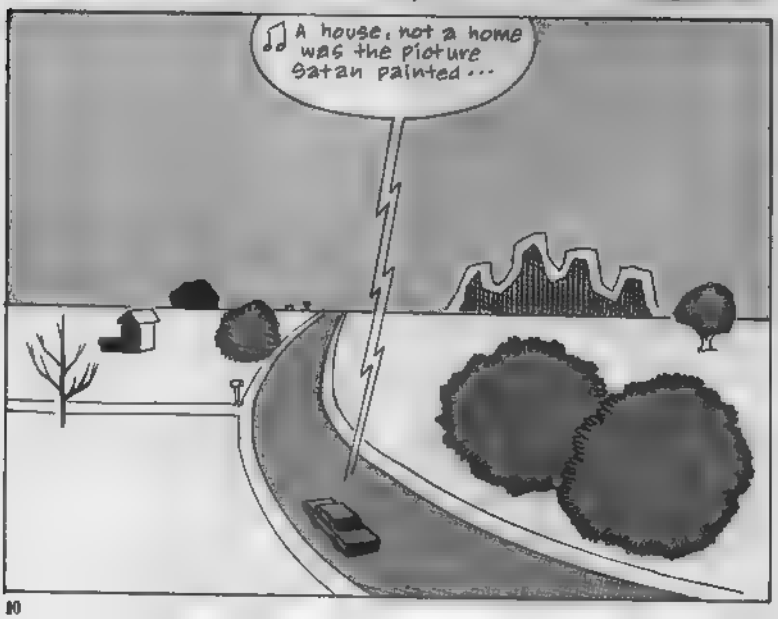
I-I DON'T HAVE A TICKET··· THIS IS MY FRIEND'S CAR AND I DON'T KNOW IF HE LEFT IT IN THE GLOVE BOX OR--
MMMMM
PTTTPWW! PTTFFF
GODDAM FUCKING DISGUSTING··· PTTW! PPTTWW!
SQUEEK SQUEEK
VROOOM
PARKING
EXIT ONLY

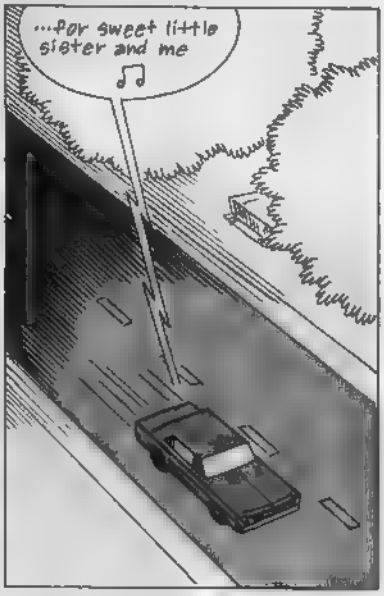
CLICK!


♫ --I'm here to waste my life away down in this dirty old jail, because I murdered that Knoxville girl, the girl I loved so well---♫
SORGHUMVILLE 21
GOOSENECK HOLLOW 44
KALENDA ROCK 64


...That's a beautiful song and it's a beautiful evening here in Sorghumville---Too bad it's a fallen world. Here are the boys with "The Angels Rejoiced in Heaven Last Night..."

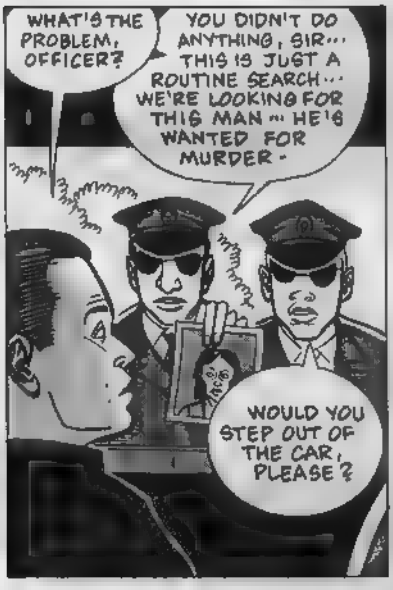


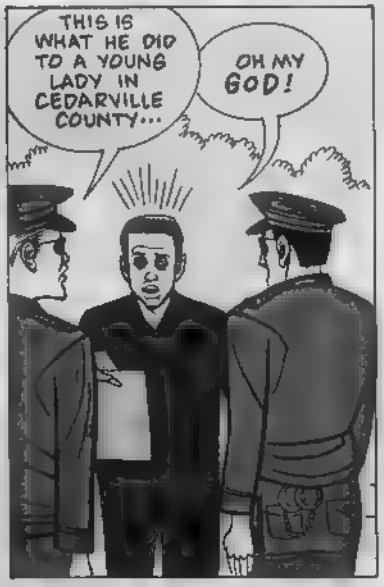

♫ A house, not a home was the picture Satan painted...


...For sweet little sister and me ♫

♫... Our Daddy would frown while Mother was praying...
AAARROOO

♫ His heart was so hardened that he would not be!-- CLICK


WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, OFFICER?
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, SIR... THIS IS JUST A ROUTINE SEARCH... WE'RE LOOKING FOR THIS MAN -- HE'S WANTED FOR MURDER -
WOULD YOU STEP OUT OF THE CAR, PLEASE?

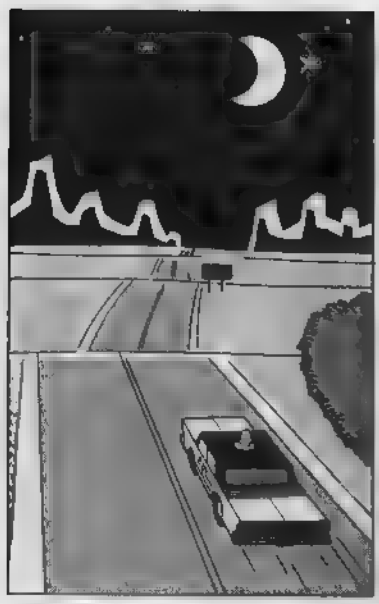

THIS IS WHAT HE DID TO A YOUNG LADY IN CEDARVILLE COUNTY...
OH MY GOD!

HEY! THIS GUY IS DRUNK! HE SMELLS LIKE A DISTILLERY!
CUFF HIM!

INTO THE CAR, BUDDY... MOVE!
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING... WHEN I WENT TO--
SAVE IT FOR THE JUDGE, ASSHOLE-- WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

...BUT--
SHUT YOUR FUCKING PIE-HOLE SCUMBAG!

DIDJA HEAR THAT OWENS GOT AN 1108 AFTER THAT P.R.T. SNAFU LAST WEEK?
...ANOTHER A-16 AND THAT PECKER-HEAD'S GONNA SECTION 21 HIMSELF INTO AN EARLY CODE 4!



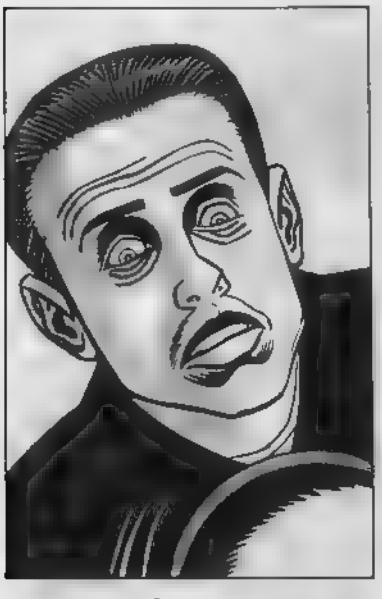
HEY JOEY... WHAT'S THAT UP AHEAD?...
...Hmm?

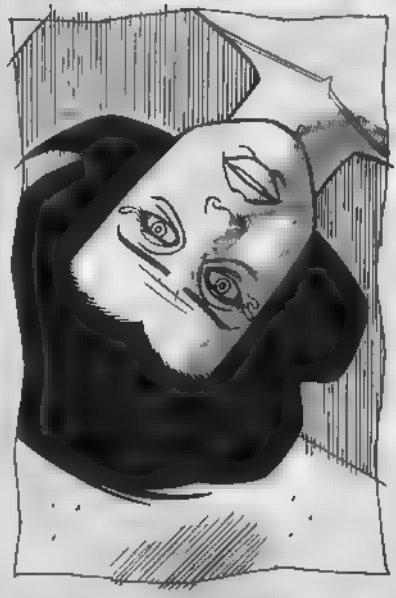
A PROSTITUTE!

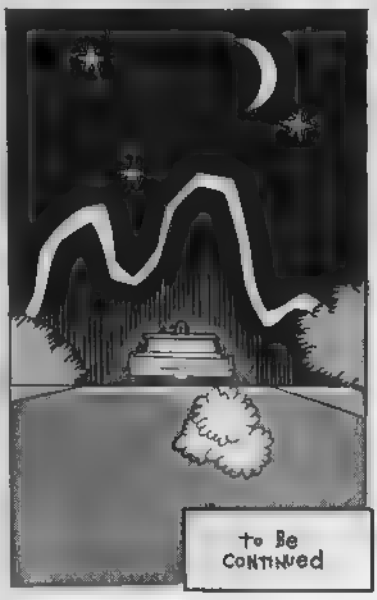
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT ZUGNZ YOU HAVE THE ZUGNZ ...THE RIGHT TO .. ZUGNZ

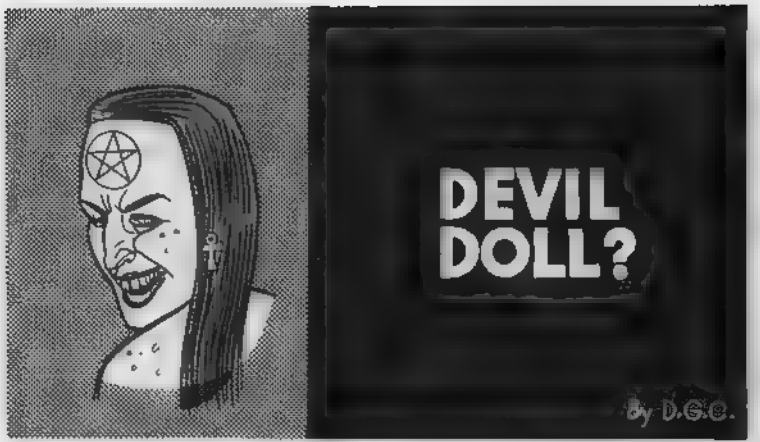
PROCEDURE 3605?
FUCK THE GOOD COP/BAD COP SHIT. WHOSE TURN IS IT? EUGNE

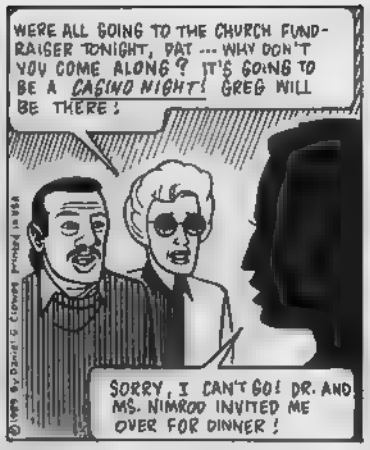
BE MY GUEST.





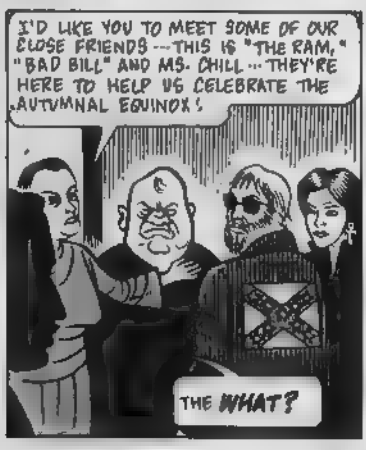

to Be Continued

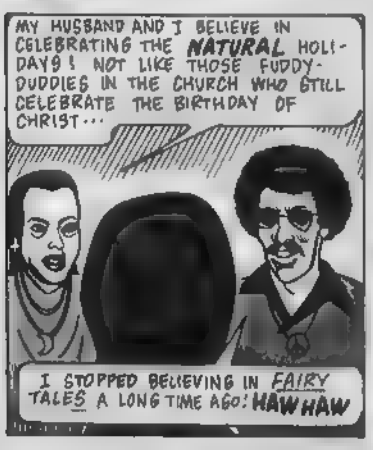

DEVIL DOLL?
by D.G.G.


WERE ALL GOING TO THE CHURCH FUND-RAISER TONIGHT, PAT --- WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG? IT'S GOING TO BE A CASINO NIGHT! GREG WILL BE THERE!
SORRY, I CAN'T GO! DR. AND MS. NIMROD INVITED ME OVER FOR DINNER!

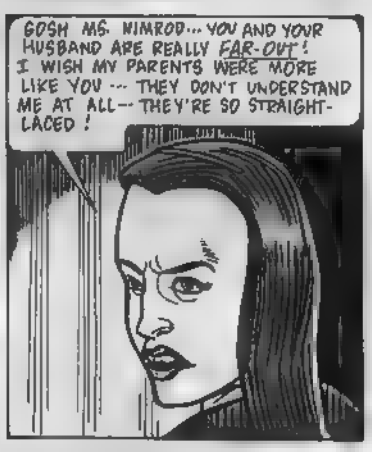
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK YOU'VE GONE OVER THERE · JUST WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS DR. AND MRS. NIMROD?
IT'S MS. NIMROD, DAD··· OH FORGET IT! YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!

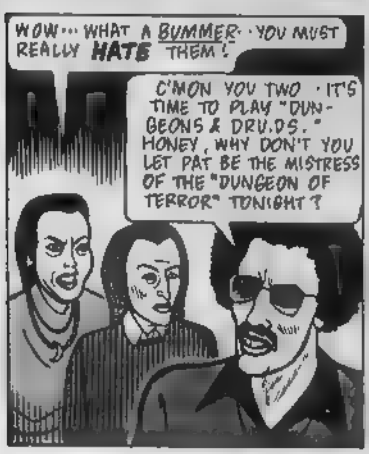
THAT EVENING
C'MON IN, PAT··· DID YOU REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR "MODULES" FOR THE "DUNGEONS & DRUIDS" GAME TONIGHT?
YES I DID, MS. NIMROD.


I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET SOME OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDS --- THIS IS "THE RAM," "BAD BILL" AND MS. CHILL ··· THEY'RE HERE TO HELP US CELEBRATE THE AUTUMNAL EQUINOX!
THE WHAT?


MY HUSBAND AND I BELIEVE IN CELEBRATING THE NATURAL HOLI-DAYS! NOT LIKE THOSE FUDDY-DUDDIES IN THE CHURCH WHO STILL CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF CHRIST···
I STOPPED BELIEVING IN FAIRY TALES A LONG TIME AGO! HAW HAW

WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THERE?
OH, THEY'RE PLAYING A HARM-LESS GAME OF OUIJA AND LIS-TENING TO THE NEW HEAVY MET-AL CD BY VOMMITT··· HAVE YOU HEARD IT, PAT? IT'S AWESOME!
SATAN IS YOUR MASTER··· DRINK THE BLOOD FROM HIS CHALICE···


GOSH MS. NIMROD··· YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND ARE REALLY FAR-OUT! I WISH MY PARENTS WERE MORE LIKE YOU --- THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND ME AT ALL-- THEY'RE SO STRAIGHT-LACED!


WOW··· WHAT A BUMMER··· YOU MUST REALLY HATE THEM!
C'MON YOU TWO · IT'S TIME TO PLAY "DUN-GEONS & DRUDS." HONEY, WHY DON'T YOU LET PAT BE THE MISTRESS OF THE "DUNGEON OF TERROR" TONIGHT?

"YOU LOSE YOUR POWER CRYSTALS··· GO BACK 3 SPACES." ···DARN!
HAW HAW SHE'S FALLING FOR IT HOOK, LINE AND SINKER! WHAT A SUCKER!

LATER IN THE WEEK
TURN THAT DOWN PAT· I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
SATAN IS MY FRIEND··· I LICK THE MAGGOTS FROM HIS CLOVEN HOOF···
OFF! I'M BUSY WITH MY TAROT CARDS!

6#★! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER WITH ALL THOSE TAROT CARDS AND HEAVY METAL MUSIC AND OCCULT JEWELRY... WE TRIED TO RAISE HER IN A HOME THAT STRESSED STRONG MORAL VALUES BUT I GUESS SHE'S JUST A BAD APPLE!

HMMM... MARGARET WON'T BE HOME FOR A FEW HOURS... I HAVEN'T WATCHED THIS ONE IN A LONG TIME...

(X) UNDERAGE TRAILER TRAMP
X ACID ORGY FREAKOUT
X LICK ME ALL OVER - TWIN
X SHE - CLOWNS IN HEAT
BUTTNIKS (X)
THE SENSUOUS BIKER GANG X
(X) PEEP-SHOW HOSEDOWN
XXX PLAYGROUND SLUT
X SHE-MALE ATROCITIES
(X) NAZI-LESBO LICK-FEST
XXX THE SLUTTE EXCUSE

I'VE GOT TO TALK TO PAT... IT BOTHERS ME THE WAY SHE'S BEEN ACTING...

I'LL TALK TO HER LATER... FIRST, I'VE GOT **MY NEEDS** TO THINK OF!

the Meat Market
PARKING
PICK-UP LOUNGE
Ladies ½ price

WHAT DO YOU THINK PAT?

I THINK IT LOOKS #6★ RADICAL!

YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, PAT... THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!

THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT WITCHCRAFT AND THE OCCULT THE MORE POWERFUL I FEEL! **HAIL SATAN!**

COME BACK AROUND MIDNIGHT, PAT... WE'RE HAVING A BLOODLESS SACRIFICE IN THE BASEMENT!

FAR OUT! **HAW HAW!**

BEFORE YOU LEAVE, HELP YOURSELF TO COCAINE, PILLS, HEROIN OR ANGEL DUST (PCP) IN THE OTHER ROOM!

I'LL TRY ANYTHING ONCE! **HAW HAW!**

SOON

...TOOK TOO MANY DRUGS... FEEL SICK... OOHH.

PAT! **PAT!**

WHO THE #6★T!

HELLO PAT... IT'S ME... GREG! I'VE BEEN PRAYING AND FASTING FOR YOU!

YOU'RE FIGHTING A BATTLE YOU CAN'T WIN! SATAN IS A **LOSER** WHO WANTS TO TAKE AS MANY SOULS WITH HIM AS HE CAN! IT'S ALL IN HERE...

**BAARRRFF** ...IN WHAT? THE #6★ BIBLE?!

NO... IN THESE ILLUSTRATED RELIGIOUS TRACTS BY "GOOSE" GANDER!

THIS ONE FORETELLS THE COMING TRIBULATION IN WHICH EVERY MAN AND WOMAN WILL BE IMPRINTED WITH A COMPUTER UPC CODE ON THEIR FOREHEAD AND THE SUPERCHURCH, RUN BY THE POPE (WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST,) WILL FORCE THE USA (WHICH WILL AT THIS POINT BE A CASHLESS SOCIETY) INTO A BLOODY WAR WITH...

HEY PAT! YOU WANT US TO GET RID OF THIS CREEP?!

DOES A BEAR ★6# IN THE WOODS!?

HEY!

SO LONG, PAT... WE'RE LATE FOR OUR **LODGE MEETING!**

LATER "BRO'S!"

SHORTLY

I WONDER IF I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY SOME MORE COCAINE... I'M ADDICTED ALREADY!

HEY! WHAT THE #@★ IS **THIS!?**

THAT CREEP* GREG MUST'VE STUCK THESE IN THERE BEFORE HE GOT HIS LIGHTS PUNCHED OUT BY MY PEOPLE!

*PROV. 11:29

WHAT THE #@★$?!

DELTA TAU OMEGA

THE MEMBERS OF THIS SATANIC FRATERNITY CULT ARE ALL BURNING IN EVERLASTING HELLFIRE BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS! IT SAYS HERE THAT SATAN IS A **LIAR** AND THAT HIS FOLLOWERS ARE **SUCKERS** AND THAT THE **ONLY** TRUE WAY TO HAVE POWER AND ETERNAL SALVATION IS THROUGH JESUS!*

*LUKE 10:19

PLEASE JESUS... I TURN MY LIFE OVER TO YOU... WASH AWAY MY SINS WITH YOUR BLOOD = GOD = I ADMIT THAT I'M A SINNER AND WITHOUT YOU I AM WORTHLESS!

SHORTLY

IT SAYS IN THIS TRACT **HASH HOBBIT** THAT CHRISTIANS ARE OBLIGATED TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS TO THE UNSAVED! I'D BETTER CALL DR. & MRS. NIMROD AND SET THEM ON THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

#@★! IT'S PAT! JESUS GOT AHOLD OF HER SOUL! ALL OUR WORK HAS BEEN IN VAIN!

#@★! HIT ME WITH THAT SPEEDBALL* WILL YOU... I NEED THIS HAND TO DRIVE.

*MIXTURE OF COCAINE AND HEROIN.

SCREEECH

YAAAAAA

CRASH!

*HEBREWS 4:7

SOON

...AND THAT CONCLUDES MY LECTURE... NOW... LET'S THROW THOSE ASTROLOGY BOOKS, ROCK RECORDS, FILTHY BESTSELLERS, OCCULT JEWELRY AND GAMES, TAROT CARDS, PLAYING CARDS AND WINKING JESUS PICTURES ON THE FIRE... **IT'S TIME FOR A COOKOUT!**

TEEN ORKS

GREETINGS MASTER! WE SERVED YOU WELL IN LIFE AND NOW WE'RE HERE TO COLLECT OUR ETE[illegible] REWARD!

**MOLOCH!** TAKE THESE TWO SUCKERS TO THE **LAKE OF FIRE! HAW HAW!**

NO! IT WAS ALL A LIE! WE'VE BEEN BETRAYED! YAAAAA!

EEEE!

HOT ENOUGH FOR YA? HAW HAW HAW HAW!

# THE LAFFIN'SPITTIN'MAN

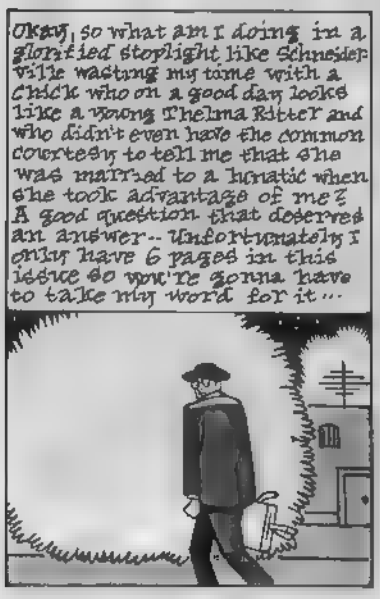
HA HA HA HA HA HA

a LLOYD LLEWELLYN adventure

:Sob: My HUSBAND! :Sob: He KNOWS EVERY-THING! :Sob:
Now LISSEN HERE ...You NEVER SAID ANYTHING about a--

You don't understand :Sob: He's not like other men-- He's a TRAVELING NOVELTY SALESMAN! He's a NUT! He's CAPABLE of ANYTHING!

...GET OUT OF TOWN FAST!


Okay, so what am I doing in a glorified stoplight like Schneiderville wasting my time with a chick who on a good day looks like a young Thelma Ritter and who didn't even have the common courtesy to tell me that she was married to a lunatic when she took advantage of me? A good question that deserves an answer-- Unfortunately I only have 6 pages in this issue so you're gonna have to take my word for it...

Hiya, Mr. Llewellyn! How's your ol' straw hat? Put 'er there!
GAAA!

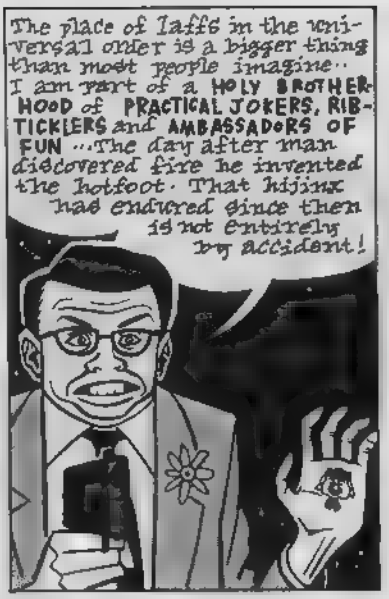
BUZZZ
HAW HAW HAW! Glad to know you, pal...I'm Burnett Ceeley ...LOUISE'S HUSBAND!

Do you enjoy a good laugh, Mr. Llewellyn? I sure do!
...Do you like me? Some people find me abrasive! AM I ABRASIVE? AM I ANNOYING?

...Oh God... M-My life has...turned to shit! :Sob:

:Whimpers:
:SNORT:

=Sove
You made a BIG MISTAKE Pal. Did Louise mention that I'm a TRAVELING NOVELTY SALESMAN !?
HEY!


The place of laffs in the universal order is a bigger thing than most people imagine.. I am part of a HOLY BROTHERHOOD of PRACTICAL JOKERS, RIBTICKLERS and AMBASSADORS OF FUN ...The day after man discovered fire he invented the hotfoot. That hijinx has endured since then is not entirely by accident!

"Steal from this world a bearer of mirth and thy debt shall be his burden assumed."

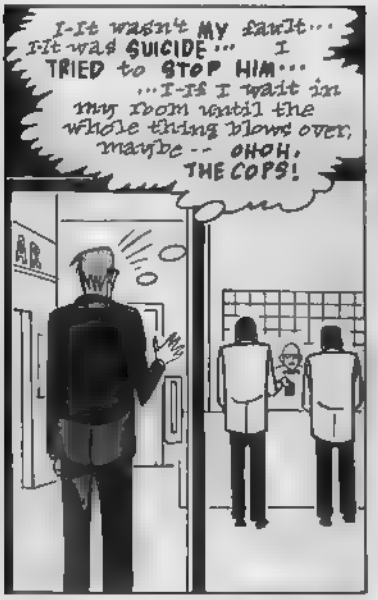
HEY!
...Goodbye, Louise Darling..
>Sob:

ARE YOU CRAZY ?! SHE'S NOT WORTH IT!
CLICK!

?

POP

BANG


I-It wasn't MY fault... It was SUICIDE... I TRIED to STOP HIM... ...I-If I wait in my room until the whole thing blows over, maybe -- OHOH, THE COPS!

...If I was a decent, honorable American with faith in justice and fair play I'd go tell them the truth and take my chances...
IF!

I need an alibi · what was I doing this evening... HMMMM...

Hey buddy! A double-shot of Slow Joe Crow and bring the young lady a fresh one!
Right away, Sir!

Thanks... y' got another cigarette?
You bet, Honey!

That's a lovely shade of lipstick you're wearing, miss!
:Grunt:

BAM!

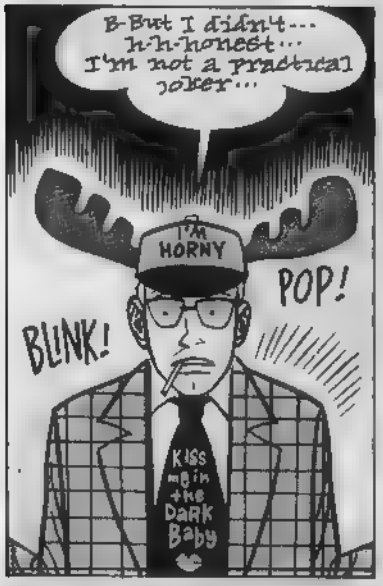
GODDAMMIT! :Coff! coff!: I SUPPOSE YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY!? Coff! coff! Coff!
NO! I-I mean I'm SORRY! I-I don't know how it could have happened...

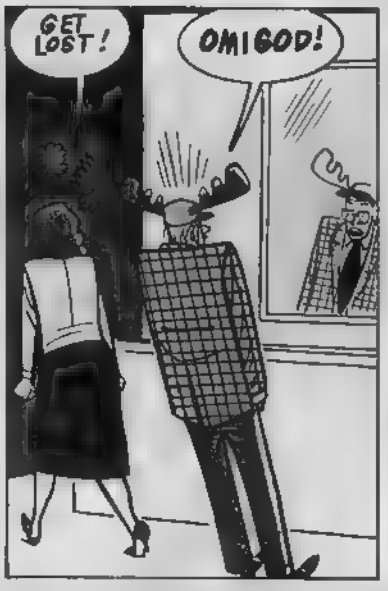
...I bought these cigarettes in the lobby this mor--
BRAAP!

Oh GHOD! How IMMATURE! I HATE practical jokers!
H-How did that get there?

I'm not in the mood to play games, Ella! Just leave me alone, okay!?
I swear to you--I don't know what's going on--- I just--
PTU!! EW!
WHOOP! CUSHION

Very Funny! Ve-e-ery funny! If I wasn't a lady I'd dump this on your ★$#@! head!
CLACK CLACK CLACK

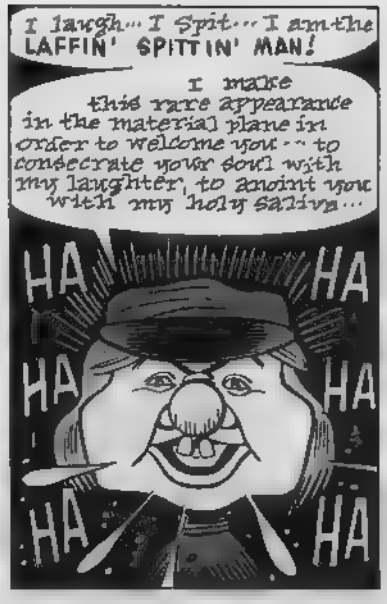

B-But I didn't--- h-h-honest--- I'm not a practical joker---
I'M HORNY
POP!
BLINK!
KISS me in the Dark Baby

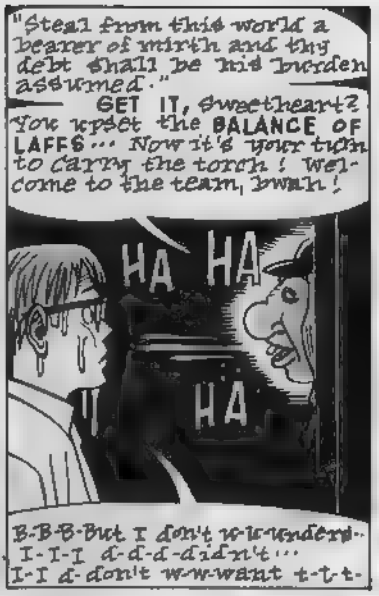

GET LOST!
OMIGOD!

HA HA HA
KISS me in the Dark Baby

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA
YAAA!


I laugh... I Spit... I am the LAFFIN' SPITTIN' MAN!
I make this rare appearance in the material plane in order to welcome you -- to consecrate your soul with my laughter, to anoint you with my holy saliva...
HA HA HA HA HA HA

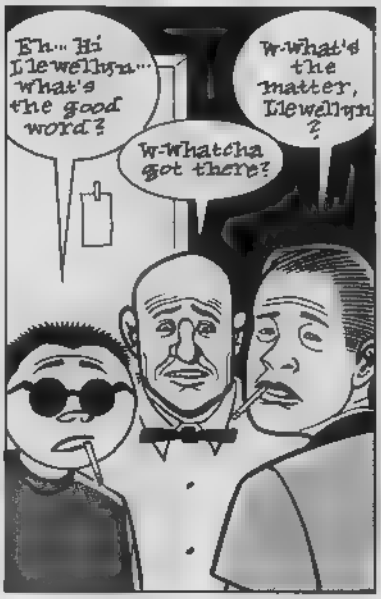

"Steal from this world a bearer of mirth and thy debt shall be his burden assumed."
GET IT, sweetheart? You upset the BALANCE OF LAFFS... Now it's your turn to carry the torch! Welcome to the team, bwah!
HA HA HA
B-B-B-But I don't w-w-understand... I-I-I d-d-d-didn't... I-I d-don't w-w-want t-t-t-

YOU DON'T WANT TO? TOO LATE, PAL! YOU SHOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU KILLED HIM! LOOK AT YOUR HAND!
HA HA HA
KISS me in the

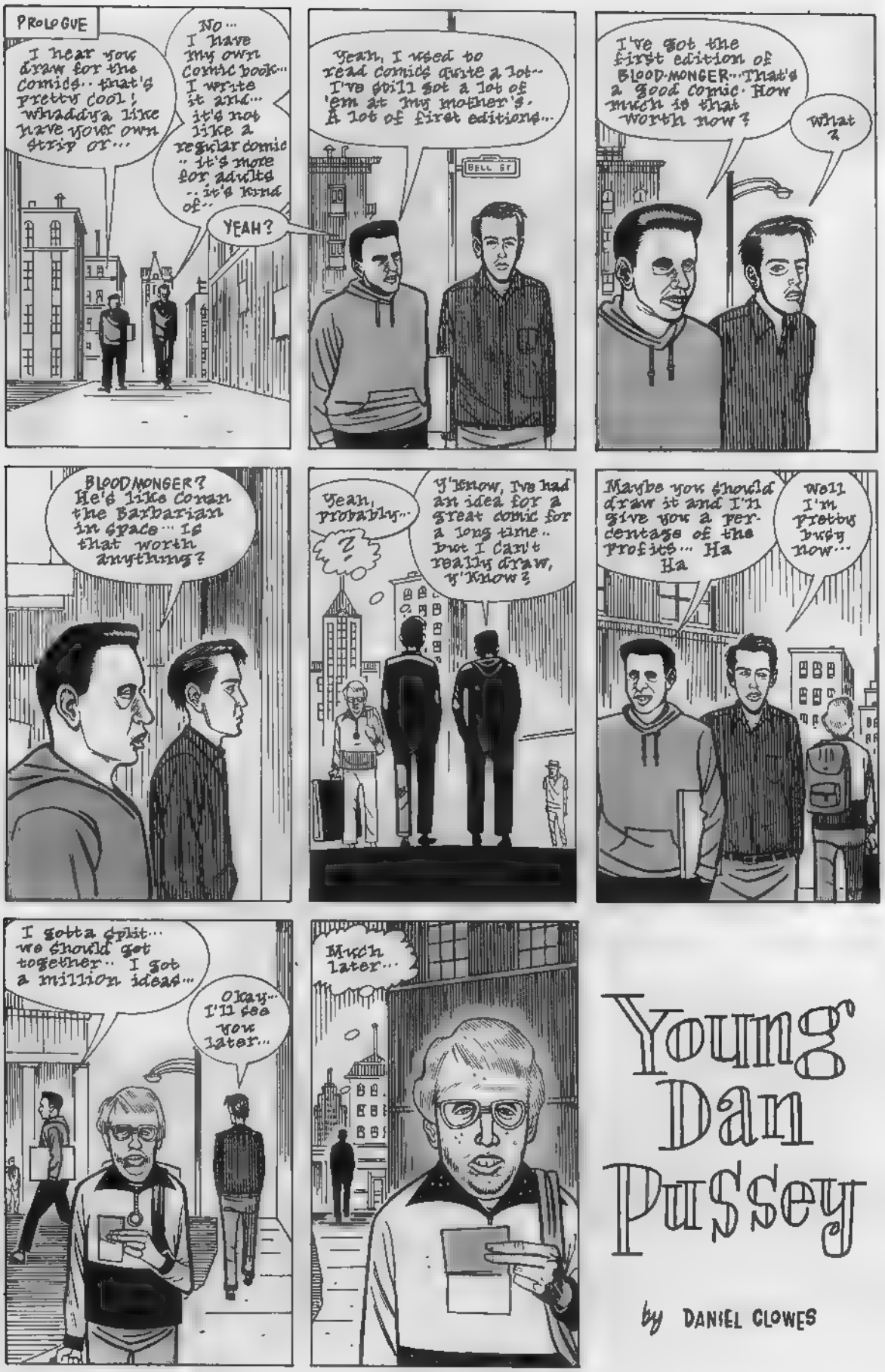
B-B-B-But I d-d-d-didn't k-k-k-kill him...
GO ON-- LOOK AT IT!
HA HA HA
Kiss me in the

YAAAA!
HA HA

Several days later...
Hey, willya look who's comin' this way!
It's Llewellyn!
I haven't seen him in... Hey... he looks kinda ...funny...

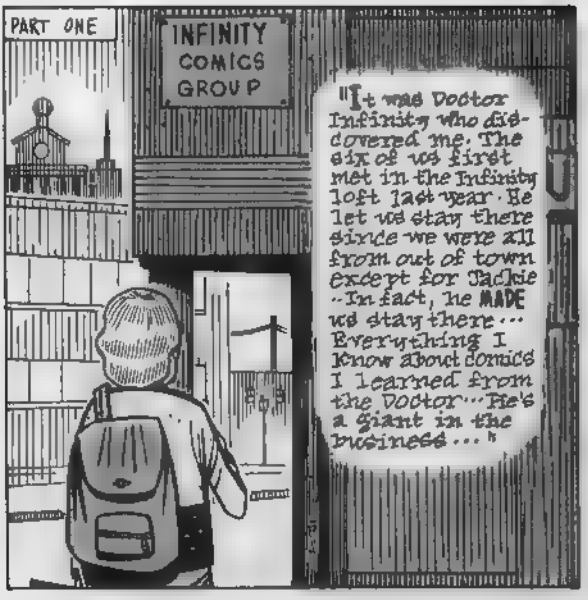

Eh... Hi Llewellyn... what's the good word?
W-What's the matter, Llewellyn?
W-Whatcha got there?

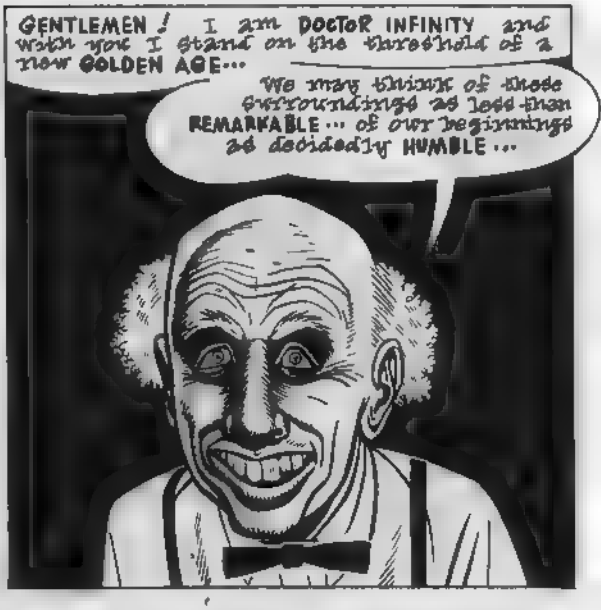
Can I interest you... in... some NOVELTIES?
End.

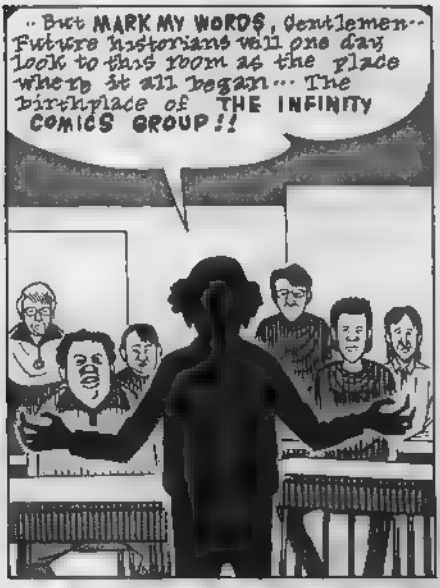



# Young Dan Pussey

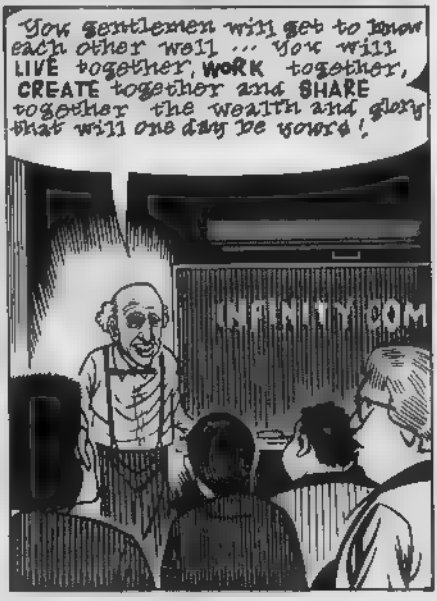
by DANIEL CLOWES




You are my hand-picked staff... the INFINITY BULLPEN... A nucleus of the FINEST young, raw, undiscovered talent of your generation...



LOOK NOW AT THE BOARD! These are our six flagship titles: THE ARMY-BOTS, INFINITY HOMBRE, MUSCLEMASTER, THE 10-YEAR ROBOT WAR, NEW AGE KRYSTYLL and MARIONETTE SQUAD! They will set the standard by which we and others will follow. They will one day be read in classrooms and quoted by scholars!

ARMY-BOTS
INFINITY HOMBRE
MUSCLE-MASTER
10-YEAR ROBOT WAR
NEW AGE KRYSTYLL
MARIONETTE SQUAD

The first issues of each of these titles will be due in ONE MONTH. You will struggle but under my guidance you will grow. It will not be easy, but few things in life worth doing ever are!

What are they, Doctor... all super-hero books?

No, Mister Roth.. Infinity Comics does not publish "super-hero books."

What are they? Jap sci-fi? Barbarians?

No no no Mr. Roth... We at Infinity Comics publish the sequentially delineated exploits of "SUPER-CHAMPIONS!"

But they're just like super-heroes, right?

HA HA HA HA HA You have much to learn, Mr. Fukuda... much to learn! We are not here to RETRACE the steps of others!

PART TWO

CLANG CLANG CLANG

Rise and Shine, Gentlemen- RISE AND SHINE!

CLANG CLANG

Get a MOVE ON, boys! Breakfast is ready!

Pages are waiting to be PENCILLED, WRITTEN and INKED!

...Not to mention LETTERED, Mr Dusendorf!

CLANG CLANG

EAT HEARTY, Gentlemen! Breakfast is the MOST IMPORTANT meal of the day!

... Before we begin today, I'd like for you boys to ask yourselves something: Am I producing up to my capabilities? Remember.. each of you is part of a TEAM... you can't win a RELAY RACE when one of the runners is merely JOGGING...

You may now lift your pencils.

Idealize, Dan Fussey, IDEALIZE! These are not mere men... they are SUPER-CHAMPIONS!

The toothbrush is your own unique voice, Mr Fukuda You must MAKE IT SING!

This character's action doesn't seem REAL, Mr Roth... What has MOTIVATED Spunk-Boy to join the Marionette Squad!?

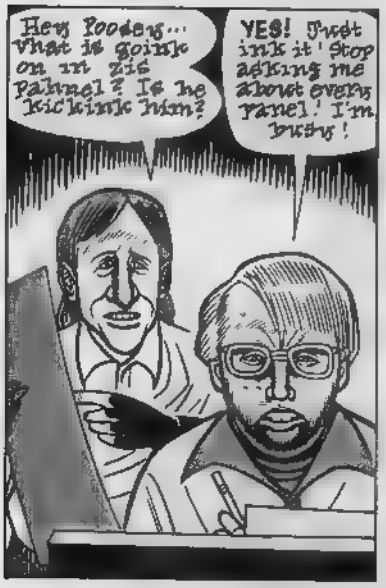
You're making progress, Mr Saucker... I'll make an inker out of you yet!

I leave you to your work, Gentlemen... I must attend a meeting with some potential advertisers. I'll be back shortly...

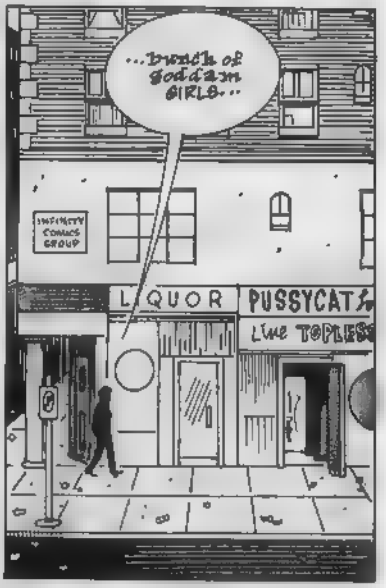
Hey Douche, what IS this? You spelled my name wrong on the splash... It's Jackie with an "ie," stupid!
Cut it out... My name is Dusendorf!
What kind of lettering is that anyway?

Yeah, Pussey's got a point there Douche.. What are you goin' for?
It's just a different style.. I ■ob it from an old "Joyful Jenkins" comic..
"Joyful Jenkins?!" What were you readin' THAT for?

Yeah Douche. Why don't you GROW UP!
Yeah, stop fucking around, Douche... I don't want our sales to be affected by this unreadable shit!
Heh heh..

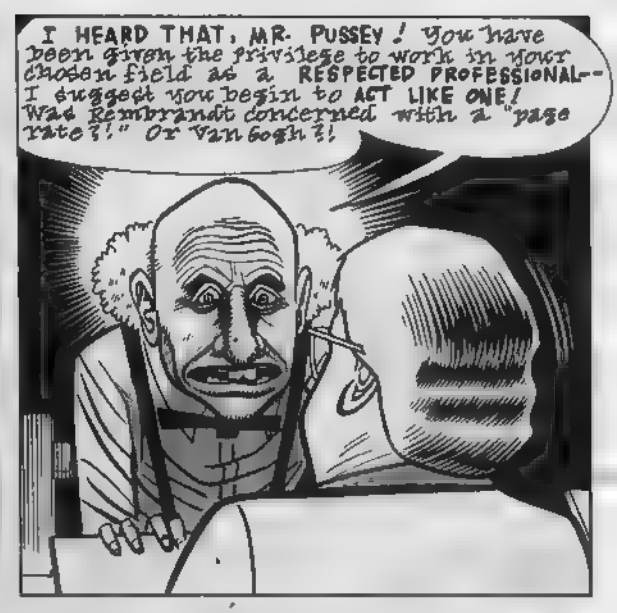

Hey Pooey... what is goin' on in zis panel? Is he kickink him?
YES! Just ink it! Stop asking me about every panel! I'm busy!

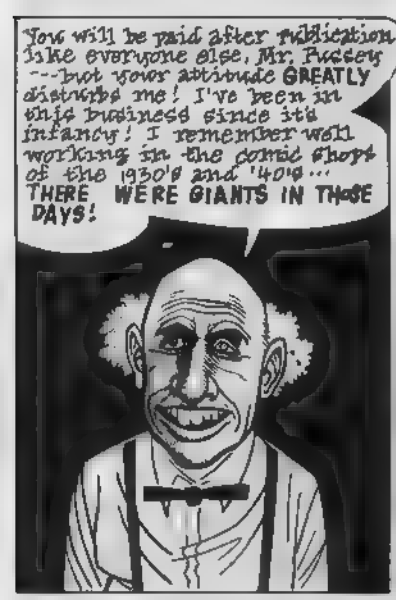
Hey, where are you going? Dr. Infinity'll be pissed if he comes back and you're not here!
Relax... I'm just going downstairs to get some cigs.. alright?

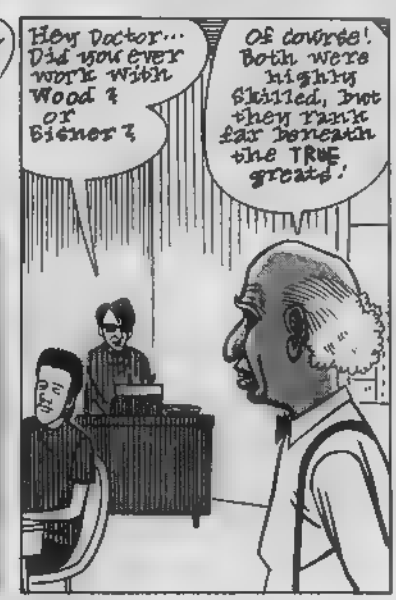

...bunch of goddam girls...
INFINITY COMICS GROUP
LIQUOR
PUSSYCAT
LIVE TOPLESS

RESTRO

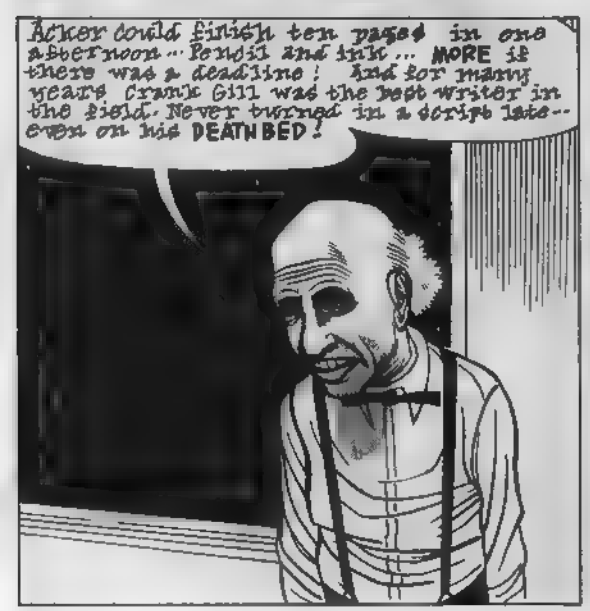
PART THREE
There are NO VACATIONS in this business! When the first issue is finished we begin on the second!
I thought we were supposed to be paid after the first issue.


I HEARD THAT, MR. PUSSEY! You have been given the privilege to work in your chosen field as a RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL-- I suggest you begin to ACT LIKE ONE! Was Rembrandt concerned with a "page rate?!" Or Van Gogh?!


You will be paid after publication like everyone else, Mr. Pussey --but your attitude GREATLY disturbs me! I've been in this business since its infancy! I remember well working in the comic shops of the 1930's and '40's... THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS!


Hey Doctor... Did you ever work with Wood? or Eisner?
Of course! Both were highly skilled, but they rank far beneath the TRUE greats!

...Have you gentlemen ever heard of HAL ACKER? ...or CRANK GILL?


Acker could finish ten pages in one afternoon... Pencil and ink... MORE if there was a deadline! And for many years Crank Gill was the best writer in the field. Never turned in a script late-- even on his DEATHBED!

--And neither of those men ever complained about his payment, Dan Pussey!

PART FOUR

Jesus Christ, Jackie I had to BEG for these passes!

Look.. I told you I can't go out until I'm done with these two scripts!

Well shit... when are you gonna be done?

Man, look at her boobs! I don't know about you guys!

Hey Jackie, Dr Infinity is supposed to be back at Three...

Yeah... you'd better split Laura.. I'll call you tonight, okay?

Nah... I'm gonna go to this thing... call me tomorrow or Friday if you finish your story.

That bitch is getting on my nerves... I'm sick of her shit...

What's wrong with her?

Pfff... Forget it, Douche... your virgin ears aren't ready for it...

Yeah really... give it up, "stud!"

Heh.. Heh heh heh

Ha ha

PART FIVE

Comic books...

By their nature they are both our most INTIMATE and our most EXPRESSIVE artform. Comic books reflect a more personal viewpoint than movies or television. Their subject matter is ESSENTIALLY LIMITLESS!

They have a potential that has thusfar only been scratched... but we in this room are the forefront of a new generation of 'SCRATCHERS!' With a mixture of youthful exuberance and raw ability, we lead the ranks of those who know fantasy to be the GREATEST REALM OF ALL!

What have you got there, Doctor?

A little surprise, Mr. Pulwada... I've just returned from the printer with advance copies of our DEBUT TITLE... HOT OFF THE PRESSES, Gentlemen!

Come forward and accept your contributor's copies! Look upon the cover of this, the first issue of THE ARMY-'BOTS and know that THE INFINITY ERA NOW BEGINS!



PART SIX

Listen to THIS: "Dan Pussey's rendering on Infinity Hombre is above par. Infinity was lucky to find this talented newcomer." Hmm... where DID they find you, Pussy?



I answered an ad in The Comics Trader and Dr Infinity called me and asked a bunch of questions and that was it. I never even showed him any samples.

Yeah, me neither... I figure he must have seen my stuff in fanzines.

Exactly.

PART SEVEN

What kind of pen do you use?

When do the action figures come out?

Are there any plans for a Muscle-Master cartoon?

Are you selling originals?

Are you going to do a Skunk-Boy mini-series?

Would you sign these, Mr. Fukuda?

Is there any chance that Infinity Hombre will join the Marionette Squad?



Hey Dan... Dan Reeser! I'm Dink Kroger! We had artwork in a lot of the same fanzines before you turned pro... I met you over at Bruce Sallee's house once...

Yeah sure... What are you up to now? ... You want me to sign those?

Yeah, thanks... I'm trying to break into the field myself! We should get together sometime... I'd like to show you my latest stuff!

It's two dollars apiece for signing... ...what did you say your name was?

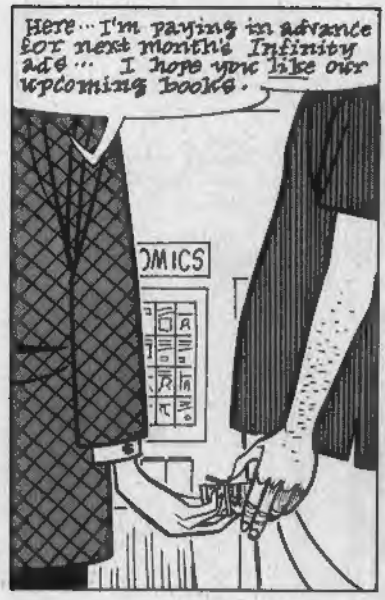
... I'd say the Con has been a roaring success! We've had a good-size herd of FANBOYS grazing around the Infinity table all day long! There was one tragic specimen who was so DULL-WITTED that he bought--

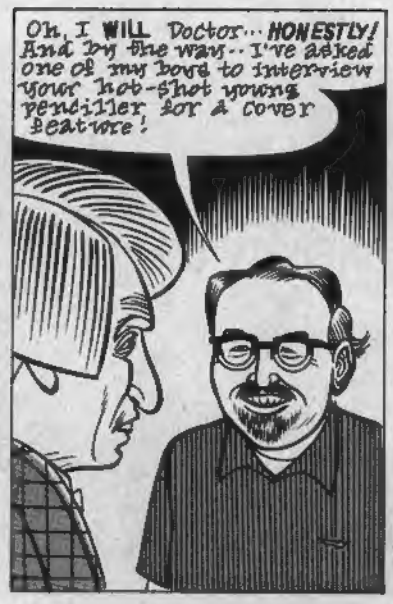
Excuse me, Dr. Infinity... I'm Herm Yunik, the editor of Comic Meat magazine... I'd like to talk to you for just a moment if I could...

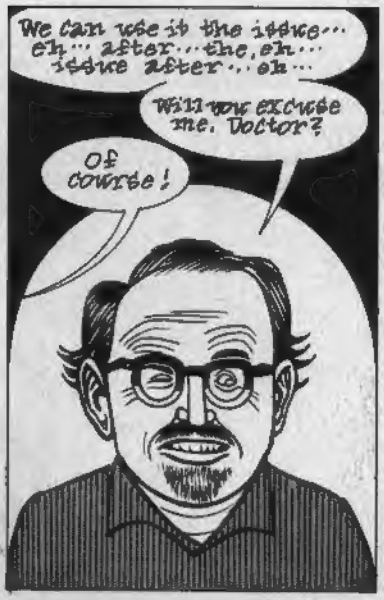
MR. YUNIK! So nice to see you! Yes, of course! Let's go over here, shall we...

I've got something for you, Herm...

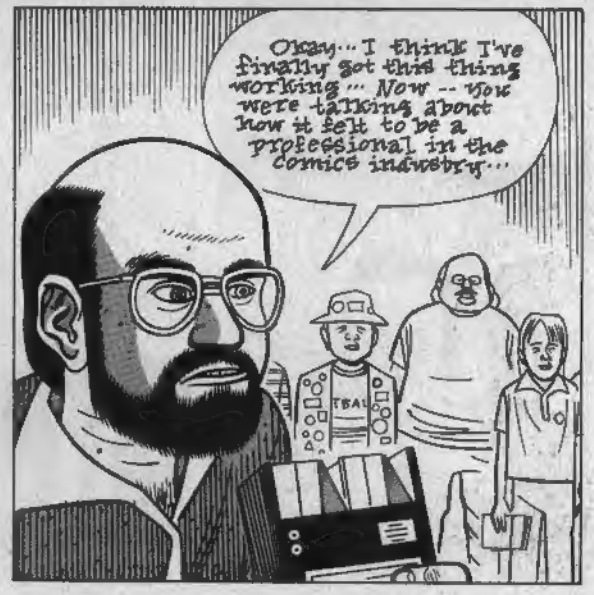
I thought you might.


Here... I'm paying in advance for next month's Infinity ads... I hope you like our upcoming books.
OMICS


Oh, I WILL Doctor... HONESTLY! And by the way.. I've asked one of my boys to interview your hot-shot young penciller for a cover feature!

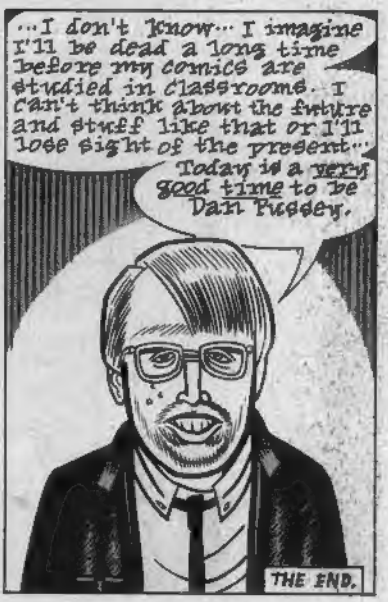

We can use it the issue... eh... after... the, eh... issue after... eh...
Will you excuse me, Doctor?
Of course!

Oh GOD how I love superheroes!
COMIC CONVENTION COSTUME PARADE


Okay.. I think I've finally got this thing working... Now -- you were talking about how it felt to be a professional in the comics industry...

Yeah... It's a great feeling being on the other side of the table... I feel like the luckiest guy in the world -- here I am doing exactly what I want and getting paid for it...

...But there's also a lot of pressure... It's like Dr. Infinity says -- Civilizations are judged by the myths and legends they leave behind... We at this table are today's myth-makers... That's quite a burden!


...I don't know... I imagine I'll be dead a long time before my comics are studied in classrooms. I can't think about the future and stuff like that or I'll lose sight of the present...
Today is a very good time to be Dan Fussey.
THE END.

I wasn't sure I wanted the job that badly. Big Jim made me nervous.

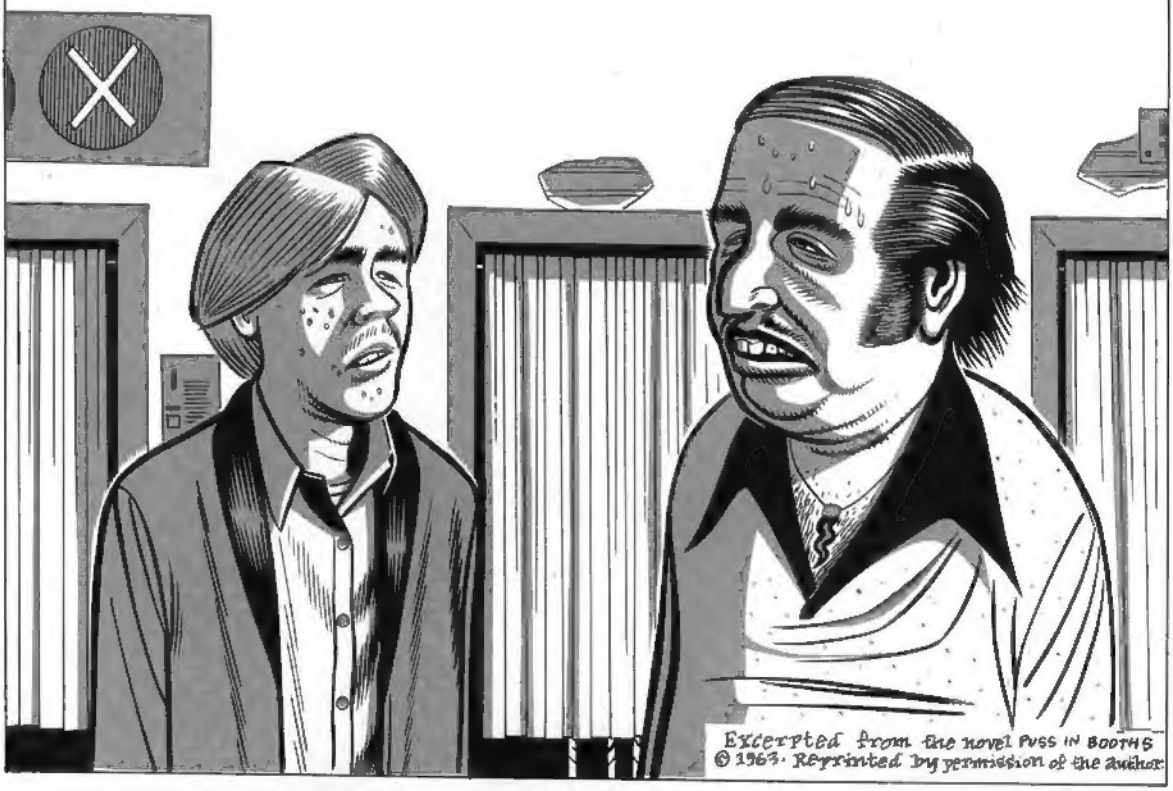
"Allright kid, what can y'do for me? Y'ever done any hosedown work ... like sprayin' vomit offa carnival rides, maybe?"

"Sure," I lied. "I've worked hosedown..."

"I could use a new clean-up man ... just on weekends and some nights."

"Great." Actually I'd hoped for more of a nine-to-five kind of thing.

"Pay is four dollars an hour ... two in cash and two in peep-show tokens."



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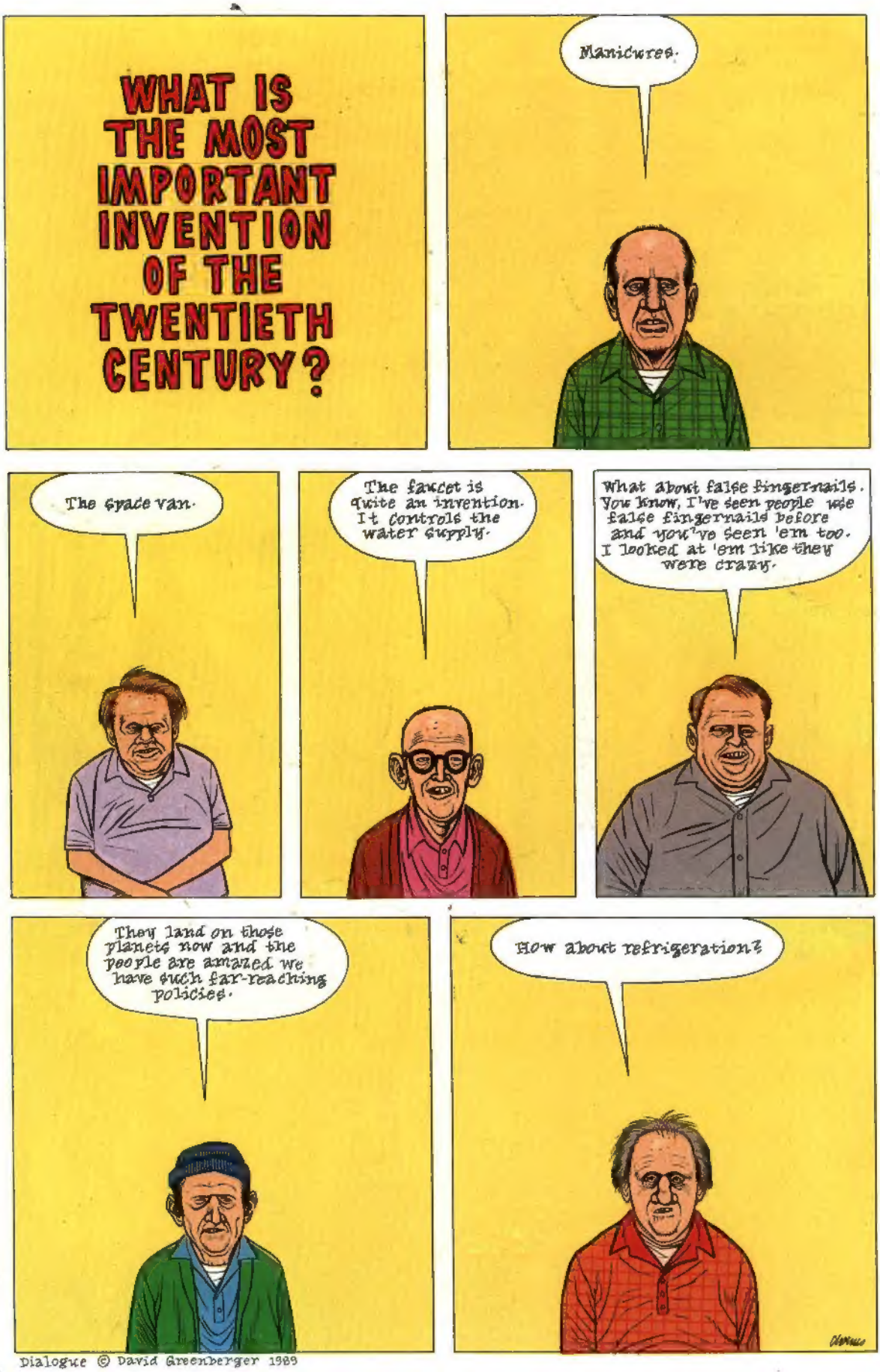


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